Remarks

Claims 28-47 are currently pending in this Application. Claims 28-47 stand rejected. It is respectfully submitted that the claims define allowable subject matter.

As an initial matter, Applicants request a telephonic interview with the Examiner if this Request for Reconsideration does not place this Application in condition for allowance.

Claims 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,879 (Weisman) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0234876 (Bloom) Claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Bloom in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,653 (Hatfield). Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Bloom in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,887,306 (Hwang). Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Bloom in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,879,988 (Kamath). Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Bloom in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,322,067 (Prater). Claims 38, 40, 42, and 44-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Bloom in view of Kamath. Claim 39 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman, Bloom, and Kamath in view of Hatfield. Claim 41 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman and Kamath in view of Hwang. Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman in further view of Kamath in view of Examiner's Official Notice. Claim 47 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisman, Bloom, and Kamath in view of Prater. Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the reasons set forth hereafter.

With respect to independent claim 28, neither Weisman nor Bloom, considered alone or in combination, describe filtering a processed data stream with a first value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a first image data stream, and filtering the processed data stream with a second value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a second image data stream, wherein the second value set of speckle reduction parameters is different than the first value set, as recited by claim 28. Weisman does not describe that the same raw image is separately applied with two different levels of speckle, but rather merely describes that the amount of speckle for a

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raw image can be selected as light, heavy, or moderate. Bloom does not even describe the filtering process of speckle reduction.

On page 3, the outstanding Office Action relies on Weisman for describing filtering a processed data stream with a first value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a first image data stream, and filtering the processed data stream with a different second value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a second image data stream. But, applying different speckle reduction parameters to the same raw image is not disclosed in Weisman as asserted in the outstanding Office Action. Rather, Weisman merely describes that the amount of speckle for a raw image can be selected as light, heavy, or moderate. In support of the Examiner's assertion that Weisman teaches applying different speckle reduction parameters to the same raw image, the outstanding Office Action cites to column 13, lines 1-10 of Weisman. But, in column 13, lines 1-10 or otherwise, Weisman does not describe that the same raw image is separately applied with two different levels of speckle. Column 13, lines 1-10 of Weisman describes that the physician may "choose one of several processing combinations from menus." Namely, column 13, lines 1-10 of Weisman goes on to say that the physician can select the options of speckle reduction, border detection, and color quantization. When selecting speckle reduction, column 13, lines 1-10 of Weisman describes that the default level of speckle reduction is moderate, but instead of the default moderate speckle, the physician may choose light or heavy speckle. In other words, the raw image may be processed with light, moderate, or heavy speckle. Nowhere does Weisman describe that a physician can or does filter the raw image initially with a light, moderate, or heavy speckle reduction, and thereafter filters the same raw image with a different level of speckle reduction. Accordingly, although Weisman describes initially selecting between different levels of speckle reduction, applying different levels of speckle reduction *to the same raw image* is not a known element within Weisman.

Bloom also does not describe applying different speckle reduction parameters to the same raw image. Rather, Bloom does not even describe the filtering process of speckle reduction. Bloom describes a system and method for generating multiple processed images from a single captured image generated by an electronic imaging device. In one embodiment, a digital camera includes multiple sets of operating parameters. For each image captured by a digital camera as raw data, the data is processed according to each parameter set prior to compression, storage in

temporary memory, and ultimate upload onto a computer or other permanent storage device. Bloom describes processing the images captured by the digital camera for contrast, tone mapping, sharpness, and illuminant correction. However, nowhere does Bloom describe the filtering process of speckle reduction. Accordingly, Bloom does not describe applying different speckle reduction parameters to the same raw image.

For at least the reasons set forth above, neither Weisman nor Bloom describe filtering a processed data stream with a first value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a first image data stream, and filtering the processed data stream with a second value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a second image data stream, wherein the second value set of speckle reduction parameters is different than the first value set, as recited by claim 28. Because Weisman and Bloom each individually fail to describe one or more elements of claim 28, it follows that a combination of Weisman and Bloom cannot describe such element(s). Accordingly, claim 28 is submitted to be patentable over Weisman in view of Bloom.

Moreover, because neither Weisman nor Bloom describe the differently speckle-reduced first and second image data streams, it follows that a combination of Weisman and Bloom cannot describe simultaneously co-displaying on a common screen a first speckle-reduced image that is generated from the first image data stream and a second speckle-reduced image that is generated from the second image data stream, as is also recited by claim 28.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 28 is submitted to be patentable over Weisman in view of Bloom.

Independent claims 36, 37, 38, 46, and 47 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 28. The secondary references fail to make up for the deficiencies of Weisman and Bloom at least with respect to the independent claims. For example, none of Hatfield, Hwang, Kamath, and Prater describe filtering a processed data stream with a first value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a first image data stream, and filtering the processed data stream with a second value set of speckle reduction parameters to produce a second image data stream, wherein the second value set of speckle reduction parameters is different than the first value set. For at least the
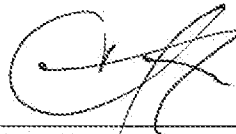
reasons set forth above, independent claims 36, 37, 38, 46, and 47 are each submitted to be patentable over the cited references.

Turning to the dependent claims, Applicant submits that dependent 29-35 and 39-45 each contain further recitations that are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Additionally, claims 29-35 and 39-45 depend from claims 28 and 38, respectively. Consequently, because claims 28 and 28 each define allowable subject matter, claims 29-35 and 39-45 also define allowable subject matter.

There may be additional reasons that claims 28-47 are each patentable over the cited references that are not described herein. Without waiver of such additional reasons, Applicant reserves the right to argue such additional reasons hereafter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Charles H. Livingston, Reg. No. 53,933
THE SMALL PATENT LAW GROUP LLP
225 S. Meramec, Suite 725
St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 584-4089
(314) 584-4061 (Fax)